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Title: Need to restore honour and diginity for the institutions founded by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to raise a very important issue regarding a renowned institute of National importance, namely, the Viswa Bharati University at Santi Niketan. We all know that this University is a reputed University. Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore had established this University. The Viswa Bharati Act, 1951 was enacted by a legislation in this Parliament, and by this amendment this University is having from the elementary system of education up to PG system of education. This is a unique institution, but under this Act all the teachers from the elementary system of education to PG system are called the *adhyapakas.* This is as per the statute of the University.

This was going on since the inception of this University till date. But very recently, by an Executive Order from the Ministry of HRD and UGC, the very spirit of this University and the ideas and ideals of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore have been diminished. The status of the teachers of the schools and the education system has been diminished, and their rights have been snatched as they have been taken at par with the other Central Schools or Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan. This is against the very ideals of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, and thereby the dignity and honour of the University has been diminished.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government, through you, not to denigrate this University, and restore the dignity and honour of this University by revoking this Executive Order. The Executive Order cannot prevail in this University without amending the principal Act. Therefore, the present status of the University should prevail, and the Government should take necessary steps in this regard. I urge upon the Government, through you, to look into this matter. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: I believe that some Cabinet Minister is here. I think that this important matter, raised by Dr. Dome just now, will be looked into.